



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

News Release

August 17, 2005

LODI IMAM AND HIS SON ARE DEPORTED TO PAKISTAN

SAN FRANCISCO – U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) announced today that a Lodi imam and his son who were arrested in June on immigration violations in connection with an ongoing investigation have been removed from the United States and returned to Pakistan.

ICE officials say the removal of Mohammad Adil Khan, 47, and his son Mohammad Hassan Adil, 19, was completed late yesterday with their arrival in Pakistan on board a commercial flight escorted by ICE officers.



The removal of the cleric and his son follows an immigration hearing July 15 where the pair announced they were abandoning their legal fight to remain in the United States and would return to their native country. Kahn and Adil were taken into custody by ICE June 6 for violating the terms of their visas.

“Mr. Khan’s removal from the United States is another victory for ICE in its continuing effort to restore integrity to the nation’s immigration system and to protect the community from those who might attempt to do us harm,” said San Francisco ICE chief counsel Ronald E. Le Fevre.

Khan is a citizen of Pakistan and a trained Muslim cleric who holds a doctorate degree in Islamic Studies from the University of Sindh, Pakistan. He first entered the United States in April 2001 as a “Special Immigrant Religious Worker,” on a non-immigrant R-1 visa, to perform religious services at the Lodi Muslim Mosque near Sacramento.

A second cleric who was arrested on immigration violations in connection with the same investigation, Shabbir Ahmed, appeared in immigration court here Monday and agreed to accept an order of removal to Pakistan. Travel arrangements for Ahmed are pending.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.